

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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P R 201921Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9196

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS PRIORITY

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 02752

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: EAID PFOR AO US RH CG ZA MZ UK

SUBJECT: BRITISH ASSISTANCE TO ZAMBIA, ZAIRE AND
SOUTHERN AFRICA

REF: (A) STATE 36980,(B) STATE 37690, (C) LONDON 2553

1. WE FOLLOWED POLITICAL COUNSELOR'S CALL ON SENIOR
FCO OFFICIALS (REFTEL C) WITH CALL ON MARTIN LYNCH,
UNDER SECRETARY RESPONSIBLE FOR AFRICA AT OVERSEAS
DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY. LYNCH STATED HE HAS HAD PRELIM-
INARY DISCUSSIONS WITH MINISTER FOR OVERSEAS DEVELOP-
MENT REG PRENTICE WHO IS "SYMPATHETIC" AND WOULD LIKE
TO EXTEND ADDITIONAL PROGRAM AID TO ZAMBIA. (LYNCH
CONFIRMED THAT ZAIRE IS CLEARLY SEEN TO BE OUR "BABY.")

2. LYNCH SAID HOWEVER THAT ODM OFFICIALS WONDER HOW
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EFFECTIVE ADDITIONAL PROGRAM AID CAN BE IN SOLVING

ZAMBIA'S PROBLEM. GIVEN PRESENT CHAOTIC TRANSPORT AND PORT SITUATION, LOANS OR GRANTS FOR PURCHASE OF UK GOODS WOULD ALMOST SEEM TO BE PRECLUDED. UNFORTUNATELY STRAIGHT FINANCIAL "GIFTS" ARE PRECLUDED UNDER ODM GUIDELINES. NEVERTHELESS ODM AND FCO OFFICIALS WILL MEET DURING WEEK FEBRUARY 23 TO PREPARE PAPER ON AID PROPOSAL FOR "WHOLE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA COMPLEX" I.E. ZAMBIA, ZAIRE, ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE. THEY WILL MAKE RECOMMENDATION TO MINISTERS BY END OF WEEK. LYNCH SAID IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO SPECULATE ON MAKE-UP OR SIZE OF PACKAGE AT THIS TIME BUT AGREED TO DISCUSS IT AT END OF NEXT WEEK.

3. WE THEN ASKED HIM IF RHODESIA WILL BE CONSIDERED AT SAME TIME. HE REPLIED THAT THEY WILL BE DEALING WITH RHODESIA SEPARATELY. HE MENTIONED FCO MINISTER OF STATE ENNALS COMMENT IN RECENT SPEECH AT ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY THAT UK MIGHT BE WILLING TO POLICE TRANSITION SHOULD RHODESIA DECIDE TO RETURN TO "LEGALITY." ALTHOUGH NOT INCLINED TO DISCUSS PRESENT HMG THINKING ON POTENTIAL ASSISTANCE SHOULD THIS SITUATION ARISE, LYNCH SAID THAT IN PAST SETTLEMENT TALKS HMG HAS OFFERED CAPITAL AID PROGRAM OF 50 MILLION POUNDS SPACED OVER 10 YEARS. HE CONTINUED BY SAYING ONE MIGHT "SAFELY ASSUME A SIMILAR PROGRAM WOULD HAVE TO BE CONTEMPLATED AS AN INEVITABLE PART OF A SETTLEMENT."

4. CURRENT CAPITAL AID TO ZAMBIA IS LIMITED TO 500,000 POUND GRANT TM SERVICE DEBT TO IBRD FOR KARIBA DAM PROJECT. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AMOUNTS TO AN ADDITIONAL 5.4 MILLION POUNDS A YEAR TO SUPPORT JUST OVER 1300 BRITISH TECHNICIANS. AID TO ZAIRE IS MINIMAL. ODM

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ACTION SS-25

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HOPES TO SIGN "ANY DAY NOW" A GRANT OF ONE MILLION POUNDS. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING, AN AGRO-RURAL PROJECT IN CONJUNCTION WITH OXFAM AND SOME TRAINING IN BRITAIN TOTALS ONLY 100,000 POUNDS A YEAR.

5. COMMENT: IT APPEARS FROM LYNCH'S COMMENTS THAT HMG IS READY, SHOULD THERE BE A DRAMATIC BREAKTHROUGH IN RHODESIA, TO PROVIDE SUBSTANTIAL ASSISTANCE TO EASE THE TRANSITION TO MAJORITY RULE. SUCH A BREAKTHROUGH WOULD OF COURSE MEAN THAT BRITAIN'S ATTENTION WOULD TURN TO RHODESIA. ZAMBIA WOULD NECESSARILY SLIDE QUICKLY DOWN HMG'S LIST OF PRIORITIES AND SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED AID WOULD BECOME UNLIKELY. SETTLEMENT WOULD HOWEVER SO EASE ZAMBIA'S ECONOMIC SITUATION BY PERMITTING THE RE-OPENING OF THE RHODESIA BORDER AND, ONE HOPES, BY THE STABILIZATION OF THE REGION THAT ZAMBIA'S NEED FOR

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ASSISTANCE SHOULD DECREASE MARKEDLY. THIS MOST RECENT SPECULATION OVER THE POSSIBILITY OF SETTLEMENT IS THE ONLY RAY OF SUNSHINE WE HAVE DISCERNED IN THE CLOUDED SOUTHERN AFRICA PICTURE IN MONTHS. UNFORTUNATELY, IT REMAINS SPECULATION AND HMG OFFICIALS REMAIN AS DARKLY PESSIMISTIC AS EVER.

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